

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 030232
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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 030232

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XT, FR, IT, MARR, NATO, OVIP

SUBJECT: WEU ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE VISIT TO US

REF: (A) PARIS 781 (B) USNATO 213

1. DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND DEFENSE HAVE CAREFULLY
CONSIDERED QUESTION OF WEU ASSEMBLY DEFENSE AND ARMA-
MENTS COMMITTEE VISIT TO US WITH PARTICIPATION OF
ITALIAN COMMUNIST (AND NEO-FASCIST) DEPUTIES. WE CONCUR
WITH OBSERVATION REF A THAT BECAUSE WE HAVE HOSTED SUCH
ANNUAL VISITS IN THE PAST, A REFUSAL THIS TIME WOULD BE
SEEN AS AIMED AGAINST PCI PARTICIPATION. WE HAVE
DECIDED ON AN APPROACH ACCORDING TO WHICH WE WILL
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PAGE 02 STATE 030232

WELCOME THE VISIT, BUT IN A MANNER INDICATING OUR
RESERVATIONS ABOUT ACTIVITIES WHERE COMMUNIST DEPUTIES
PARTICIPATE. IN THIS WAY WE WILL INDICATE WE ARE
INTERESTED IN PRESERVING THE US RELATIONSHIP WITH
THE ASSEMBLY, BUT THAT THE RELATIONSHIP WILL NOT BE
QUITE THE SAME AS BEFORE, AT LEAST WHERE THE COMMUNIST
DEPUTIES ARE INVOLVED.

2. THE EMBASSY SHOULD CONTACT WEU ASSEMBLY STAFF AND MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS ORALLY, INDICATING THAT YOUR PRESENTATION IS THE USG RESPONSE TO DECEMBER 16 JULIAN CRITCHLEY LETTER TO AMBASSADOR RUSH.

--US WELCOMES ASSEMBLY VISIT AND LOOKS FORWARD TO CONTINUING OUR COOPERATION WITH THE ASSEMBLY IN ARRANGING THESE VISITS WHICH ARE OF VALUE BOTH TO THE ASSEMBLY AND TO THE US.

--THE COMPOSITION OF THE ASSEMBLY GROUP THIS YEAR HAS COMPELLED US TO EXAMINE CAREFULLY THE SUBSTANCE AND DURATION OF THE PROGRAM AS PROPOSED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND THE QUESTION OF WHETHER NATIONAL CHAIRMEN OF PARLIAMENTARY DEFENSE COMMITTEES SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE VISIT.

--WE WISH TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS: THE VISIT PROGRAM SHOULD SPAN ONE WORK WEEK, STARTING MONDAY, MARCH 28 AND ENDING FRIDAY, APRIL 1. DUE TO THE REDUCTION IN DURATION, THE ACTIVITIES DURING THE VISIT WILL BE SIMILARLY REDUCED. (FYI: THE MORE SENSITIVE BRIEFINGS AND VISITS WILL BE ELIMINATED. END FYI.) USG BRIEFINGS WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE STATE AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS, AND WILL BE UNCLASSIFIED. WE WOULD PREFER THAT THE GROUP BE LIMITED TO ASSEMBLY PARLIAMENTARIANS ONLY. (FYI: WE BELIEVE INCLUSION OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY DEFENSE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 030232

WOULD GIVE TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO THE VISIT. END FYI.)

--WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE ASSEMBLY'S VIEW OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS. WE WILL BE IN FURTHER CONTACT WITH THE ASSEMBLY ON DETAILS RELATED TO THE TRIP.

3. FOR NATO: WE PRESUME LOW-KEY NATO PUBLIC STATEMENT ON PROVISION OF CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS TO WEU IS NOW POSSIBLE. AS APPROPRIATE, YOU SHOULD PROCEED WITH STEPS TO GET STATEMENT ON THE RECORD (USNATO 213).

4. CONCERNING REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE TO RESPOND TO PRESS AND OTHER QUERIES RELATED TO PCI MEMBERSHIP IN WEU ASSEMBLY (PARA 8E, REF A), YOU SHOULD REFER TO NATO STATEMENT ON PROVISION OF NATO CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS (PARA 3 ABOVE). CONCERNING US VIEW OF PCI MEMBERSHIP, YOU SHOULD NOTE US IS NOT A MEMBER OF WEU ASSEMBLY. MEMBERSHIP IN ASSEMBLY IS MATTER FOR DECISION BY SEVEN COUNTRIES WHICH ARE MEMBERS OF WEU; THEY ARE

FREE TO NAME WHOMEVER THEY WISH TO ASSEMBLY AS FAR

AS US IS CONCERNED. REGARDING ASSEMBLY TRIP, US
WELCOMES TRIP AS WE BELIEVE SUCH TRIPS TO BE USEFUL
FOR ASSEMBLY AND FOR US. IF ASKED ABOUT ARRANGEMENTS
FOR TRIP, YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT DUE TO COMPOSITION OF
ASSEMBLY GROUP US DECIDED TO PROVIDE PROGRAM WHICH IS
SOMEWHAT SHORTER AND, CONSEQUENTLY, REDUCED IN SUBSTANCE
THAN PROGRAM REQUESTED BY ASSEMBLY. MOREOVER, ALL
BRIEFINGS IN WASHINGTON BY USG WILL BE UNCLASSIFIED.

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